

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-67/74)

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with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr GLINNE, Mr SPENALE, Mr BROEKSZ, Mr DONDELINGER,

Mr FLAMIG and Mr SEEFELD

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: The Community's attitude to South Africa

During the UN General Assembly's recent debate on a draft resolution granting the EEC observer status, Mr DE GUIRINGAUD, the French Ambassador to the United Nations, replying to a speech by Ambassador Edwin OGBU, chairman of the UN special committee on apartheid, made a statement on behalf of the Community on its relations with the Republic of South Africa.

He stressed the Community's full support for the principles of the United Nations Charter and assured the Assembly that no negotiations had been opened between the EEC and the Republic of South Africa with a view to granting the Pretoria government any trade concessions. He added that the Community authorities had no intention of opening any such negotiations with South Africa. He concluded by affirming that all the Member States have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, which, he said, goes far beyond the

maximum demands made by the opponents of apartheid.

Can the Commission now answer the following questions:

1. Is it true that after and because of Mr DE GUIRINGAUD's statement no objection was made in the General Assembly to the resolution granting the EEC observer status and that the EEC was accordingly admitted?
2. Is it true that, on the initiative of the Foreign Minister of a Member State or some other party, the President of the Council and the Commission of the Communities are at present considering whether Mr DE GUIRINGAUD overstepped his mandate in making this statement to the UN General Assembly?
3. Can the Commission confirm that the Community refuses to grant the Republic of South Africa any trade concessions, condemned as these must be, in the form of a special agreement and that it is against the policy of apartheid?